

Hanukkah,



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The Festival of Lights

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Hanukkah, The Festival of Lights

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EDU-MEDIA
Kitchener, Ontario



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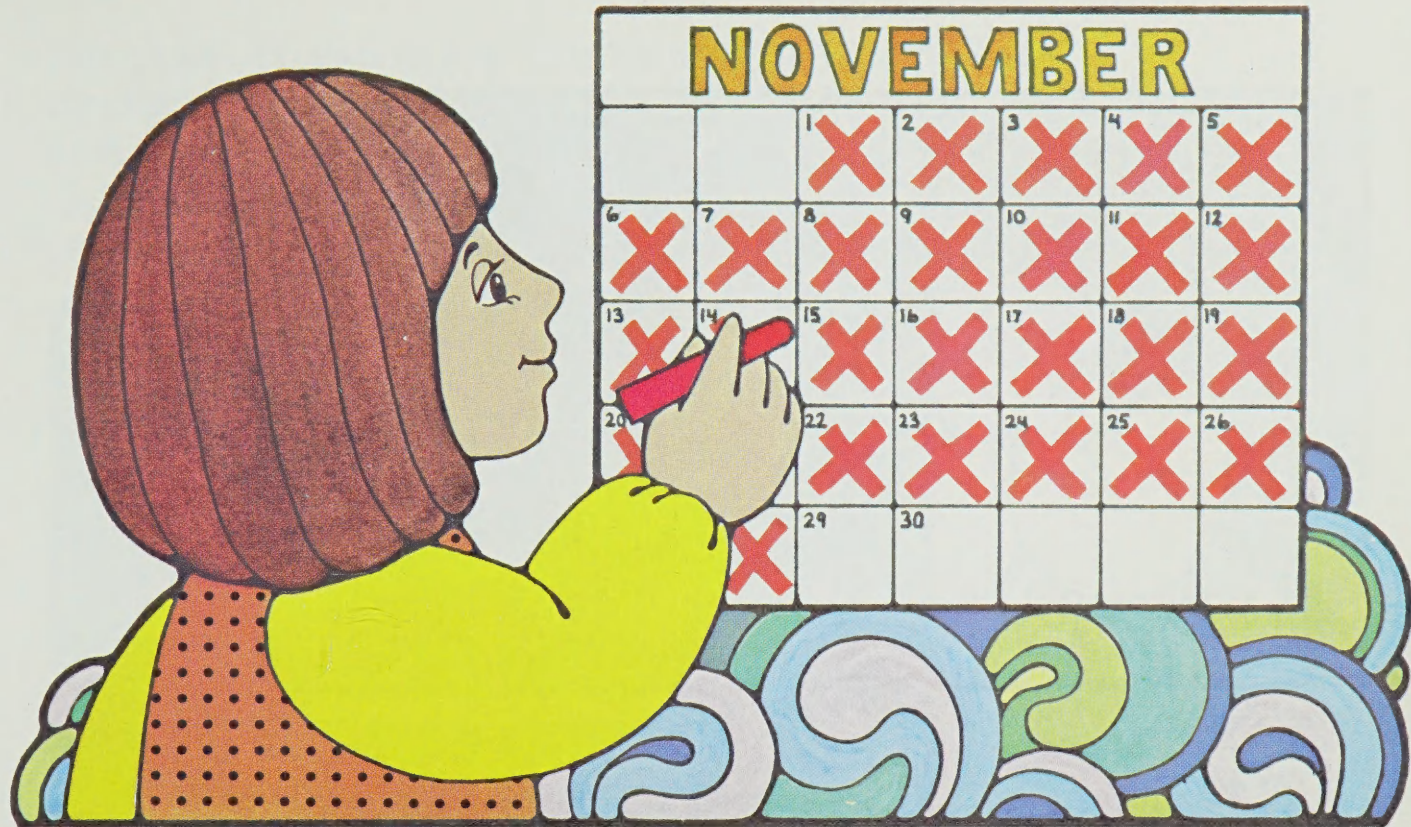
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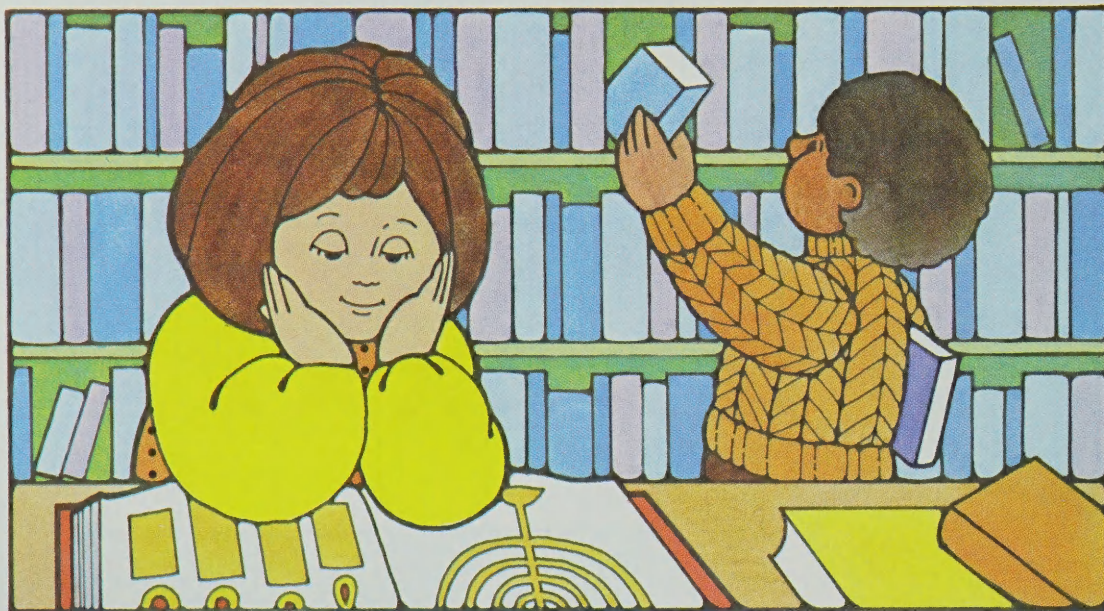
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Printed in Canada ISBN 0-88979-184-8

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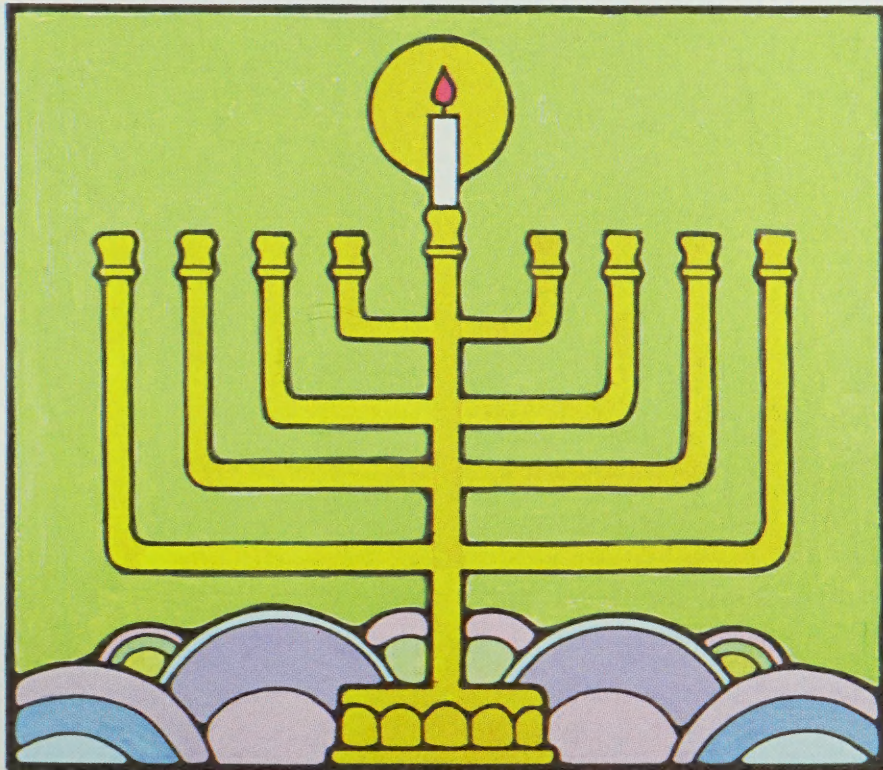


Ruth begins to count the days till Hanukkah. This Jewish holiday may begin in the last week of November. Hanukkah begins on the twenty-fifth day of the Hebrew month of Kislev. Hanukkah lasts eight days.



At the school library Ruth learns how Hanukkah began. A group of brave Jews fought to be free and to win back the Temple of Jerusalem for their people. Ruth also reads about the lighting of the lamps in the Holy Temple. She learns that a very small amount of oil was used to light the lamps. The oil lasted for eight days. This made the people very happy.

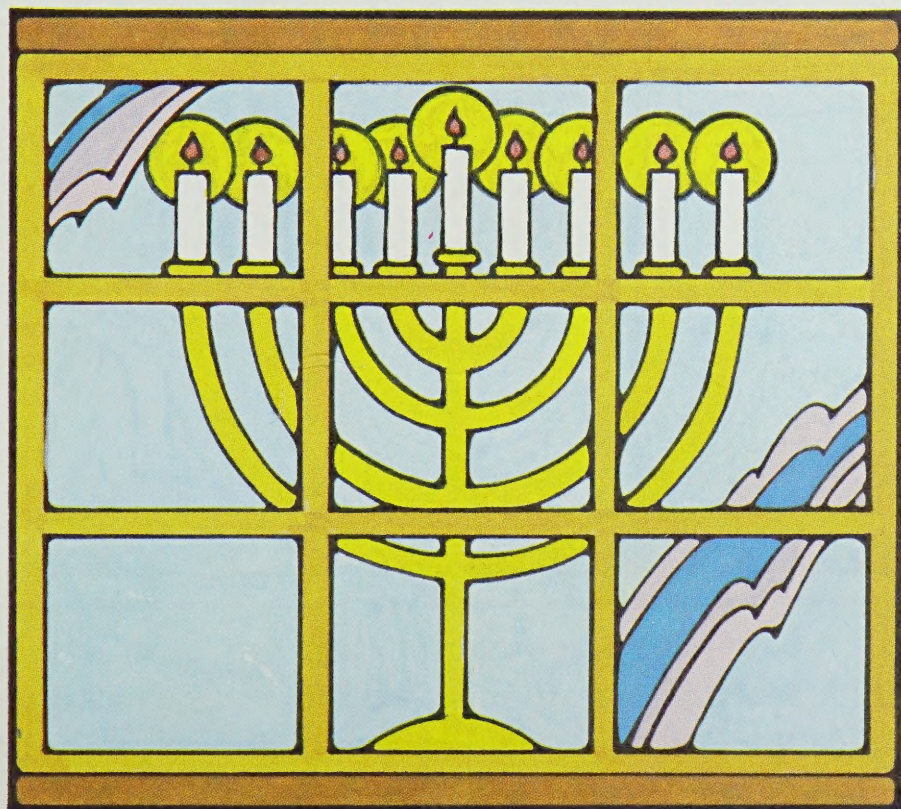
Hanukkah is also called The Festival of Lights. The candleholder, or menorah, holds the candles that are lighted each night during Hanukkah. There are places for eight candles and the shamash, which means "helper." The shamash candle is used to light the other candles.





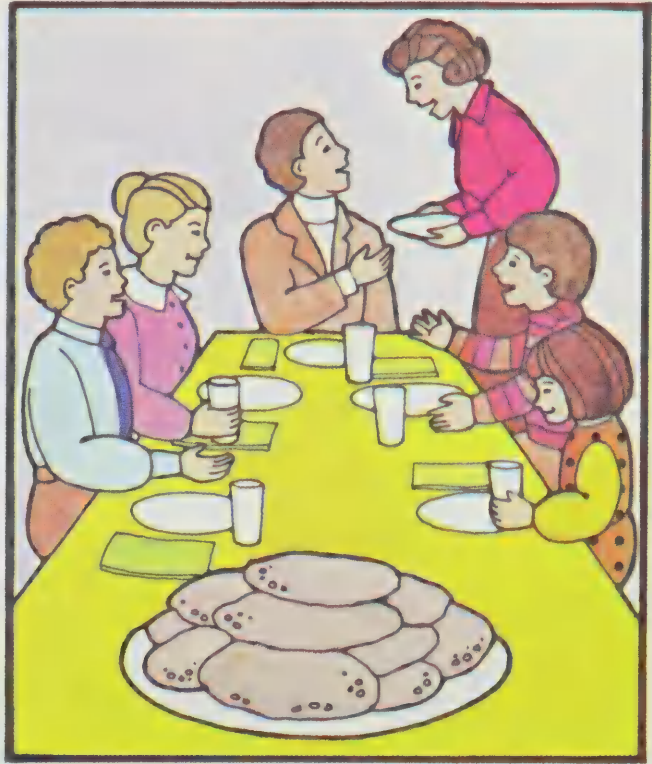
On the first night the shamash and one candle are lighted. On the second night, two new candles are lighted by the helper candle. Every night more new candles are used and lighted by the shamash. On the last night eight new candles and the shamash shine brightly.

Years ago Ruth's grandmother often set the menorah in her doorway. In a city apartment, it goes on or near the windowsill for all to see.





Ruth, the youngest child, lights the first candle. A blessing is said. At last the holiday begins.



Each night the family members gather together. They may sing folk songs and tell stories. Holiday food is served, especially latkes, which are a kind of potato pancake.

With her mother's help, Ruth writes a play about Hanukkah. Her brother will play a part of Judah Maccabee, the brave leader of his people.





When her play is performed, Ruth remembers all her lines. Afterward everyone stands and claps. Ruth takes a bow.



The family gives gifts and plays games.
Ruth's mother is good at a special word
game played with Hebrew letters.

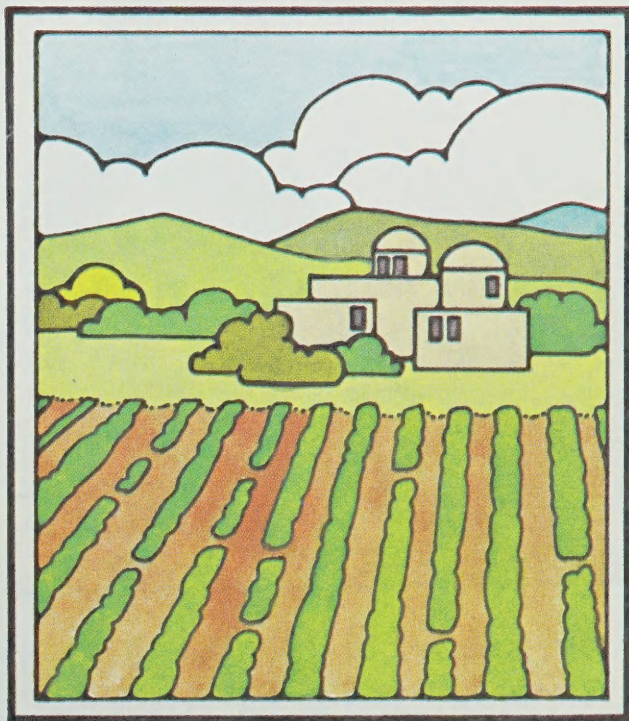
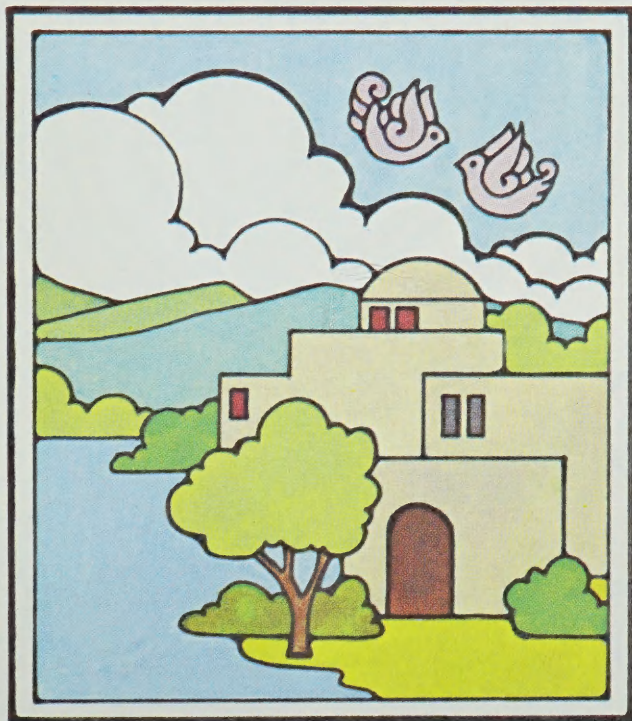
Ruth's father puts a special record on the stereo. Uncle David teaches everyone a folk dance he learned in Israel.





Ruth likes to spin the dreidel, a top with Hebrew letters on it. She knows the letters stand for the saying, "A Great Miracle Happened There." Ruth remembers the story about the oil and the lights in the Temple long ago.

The last night of the holiday, everyone watches movies in color. Uncle David shows pictures of Israel, where the holiday began long ago.





After the candles are lighted, Ruth says, "I wish Hanukkah lasted all year long."

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